

CONSULTING & TRAINING 2023 PROJECTS

YKI

The NRL has recently collaborated with Yayasan KNCV Indonesia (YKI) and the Indonesian Ministry of Health to assess and strengthen the capacity of four nominated laboratories to develop and deliver a national HIV Viral Load External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS). Supported by the Global Fund, the project involved theory training provided virtually by NRL trainers followed by a practical on-site Workshop in Makassar and a capacity assessment of each laboratory. The collaboration successfully improved the knowledge base of all the laboratory staff and identified the actions that need to be taken by each laboratory in order to meet the capacity requirements of a national HIV Viral Load EQAS provider.

Sri Lanka

In mid-2023, an assessment was conducted by the NRL at the Sri Lanka National Blood Transfusion Service (SLNBTS) on behalf of WHO SEARO. The objective was to assess the capacity of the SLNBTS to become an External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS) provider for laboratories in the south east Asia region, and to use the findings to develop a customised training program to be delivered at a later stage. The final report provided by the NRL assessors identified all areas that needed to be addressed and included a proposed Action Plan setting out not only the actions, but also their priorities.

India

NRL is currently providing EQA training and capacity support to the India Institute of Medical Research on behalf of WHO SEARO. The project involves supporting 15 Institutes to become EQAS providers for current and emerging infectious diseases. Phase 1 involved theory training provided virtually by NRL trainers followed by Phase 2, a practical on-site Workshop at the National Institute of Virology in Pune, India, where staff from the 15 Institutes gathered. Phase 3 is currently ongoing and involves post-training support and mentoring. After the practical training, the 15 Institutes started implementing their pilot programs.

WHO Western Pacific

In collaboration with WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, NRL conducted an Evaluation of access to laboratory services at the primary healthcare level in the Western Pacific Region. This project aimed to fulfil commitments made by WHO Member States through the endorsement of the Regional Framework for Reaching the Unreached in the Western Pacific (2022–2030). This was done by gathering best practices and challenges to accessing primary healthcare from across the region so that all concerned countries can benefit from them. The project has been completed and the findings will be published by WHO.

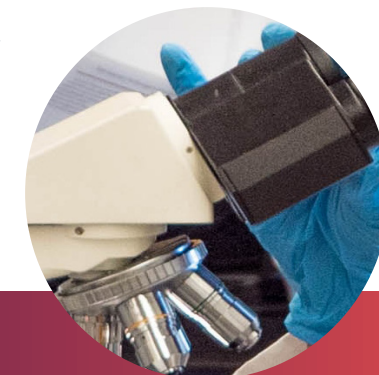
AIHSP

NRL is collaborating with the Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership (AIHSP) and the Indonesia One Health University Network (INDOHUN) to support selected primary (or Puskesmas), district and provincial public health laboratories, in 10 districts spread out over 5 provinces (Central Java, Yogyakarta, Bali, South Sulawesi, East Nusa Tenggara or NTT). The collaboration will improve the quality of their testing systems through the involvement of dedicated trainees, who will act as Quality Champions during a series of training and mentoring programs. These programs are

customised to address identified challenges faced by the laboratories. Funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the aim of this collaboration is to ultimately strengthen laboratory capacity in both public health and hospital systems in the selected provinces.

AIHSP's webpage:
<https://www.aihsp.or.id/>

INDOHUN's webpage:
<https://indohun.org/>



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